

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S BILATERAL WITH PORTUGUESE FOREIGN
MINISTER

FOR STREATOR

1. FOLLOWING CHANGES SUGGESTED FOR SECRETARY'S BRIEFING
BOOK FOR JUNE 19 MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SOARES.

2. ON PAGE 7, ISSUE 6 PORTUGAL'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH
LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, CHANGE THE "PORTUGUESE POSITION"
TO READ AS FOLLOWS: PORTUGUESE POSITION: AFTER 13
YEARS OF WARFARE IN THE AFRICAN TERRITORIES, THE
PORTUGUESE SEEM FINALLY DETERMINED TO DISENGAGE AND ALLOW
THE AFRICAN PEOPLES TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN FUTURE.
ALTHOUGH THE MEANS OF THIS DETERMINATION SEEMS TO BE
THE CAUSE OF SOME DISPUTE WITHIN THE GOP, PRELIMINARY
NEGOTIATING SESSIONS -- PERSONALLY INITIATED AND LED
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BY FOREIGN MINISTER SOARES -- HAVE ALREADY BEEN HELD

WITH THE INSURGENT GROUPS IN PORTUGUESE GUINEA (PAIGC) AND MOZAMBIQUE (FRELIMO). THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME DIFFICULTY IN SETTING THE SCOPE AND SUBSTANCE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS (I.E. CEASE-FIRE, REFERENDUM TOTAL INDEPENDENCE) AND TALKS WITH BOTH GROUPS ARE MOMENTARILY SUSPENDED. ANGOLAN TALKS ARE STILL NOT SCHEDULED, PROBABLY BECAUSE THREE DISPARATE GROUPS EACH CLAIM DOMINANCE

THERE. THE PORTUGUESE WANT OUR MORAL AND POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR THESE NEGOTIATIONS. THEY DOUBTLESS WOULD APPRECIATE U.S. EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE VARIOUS AFRICAN LEADERS TO URGE THE REBELS TO NEGOTIATE IN GOOD FAITH AND WITH MODERATION. ADDITIONALLY, SOARES MAY ASK YOUR SUPPORT FOR HIS POSITION THAT INDEPENDENCE CAN BE THE SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND THAT A REFERENDUM (AT LEAST IN THE CASE OF PORTUGUESE GINEA) IS NOT ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY. SOARES TOLD THE DUTCH THAT PRESIDENT SPINOLA DISAGREES WITH HIM ON THIS POINT BUT THAT SPINOLA MIGHT CHANGE HIS MIND IF THE U.S. USED ITS INFLUENCE WITH HIM.

3. ADD AS A NEW RPT NEW ITEM ISSUE 7. 7. STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF THE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS, PORTUGUESE POSITION:

THE PORTUGUESE ASKED US IF WE REGARDED THE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS TO BE OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE. IF WE DO, IT WILL REINFORCE THE GOP'S OWN INCLINATION THAT THE ISLANDS ARE STRATEGICALLY VITAL AND THIS CONSIDERATION WILL INFLUENCE THE PORTUGUESE IN THEIR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PAIGC, THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT IN PORTUGUESE GUINEA, TO DEMAND THAT THE ISLANDS BE TREATED DIFFERENTLY FROM PORTUGUESE GUINEA. THE PAIGC LEADERSHIP IS DOMINATED BY CAPE VERDEANS, EVEN THOUGH THE ISLANDS ARE APPROXIMATELY 500 MILES OFF THE AFRICAN COAST AND NO INSURGENT ACTIVITY AS EVER OCCURRED THERE.

PORTUGAL HAS ALWAYS CONSIDERED THE CAPE VERDEANS TO BE MORE PORTUGUESE THAN AFRICAN. ETHNICALLY AND HISTORICALLY DIFFERENT FROM THE PEOPLES OF PORTUGUESE GUINEA,
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THE CAPE VERDEANS ARE GOVERNED AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE METROPOLE (AS ARE THE AZORES AND MADEIRA) WHEREAS THE AFRICAN TERRITORIES WERE ADMINISTERED BY THE OVERSEAS MINISTRY. BASED UPON OUR PRESENT KNOWLEDGE, WE BELIEVE THAT A REFERENDUM ON THE QUESTION OF INDEPENDENCE WOULD PROBABLY RESULT IN CONTINUED CAPE VERDEAN TIES TO PORTUGAL.

U.S. POSITION:

THE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS OFFER AN EXCELLENT POTENTIAL LOCATION FOR THE CONDUCT OF ASW SURVEILLANCE OPERATIONS IN THE EASTERN ATLANTIC, INCLUDING THE APPROACHES TO GIBRALTAR AND THE MEDITERRANEAN. CURRENT USE, HOWEVER, IS LIMITED TO OCCASIONAL REFUELING STOPS BY ASW AIRCRAFT. THE ISLANDS COULD, IF OTHER FACILITIES WERE DENIED TO US, BE USEFUL AS A STAGING AREA.

MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANY ACTUAL OR POTENTIAL US USE OF THE CAPE VERDES IS OUR CONCERN THAT THE ISLANDS NOT BE USED BY FORCES HOSTILE TO THE WEST. SUCH FORCES COULD EMPLOY THE ISLANDS AS A BASE FOR SURVEILLANCE OF NATO FORCES IN THE ATLANTIC, TO DISRUPT OR INTERDICT IMPORTANT NATO LINES OF COMMUNICATION IN TIME OF WAR AND TO SUPPORT CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS BY SUCH FORCES IN WEST AFRICA.

YOUR TALKING POINTS

(IF SOARES RAISES THE CAPE VERDE QUESTION) EMPHASIZE TO HIM, THAT, WHILE WE HAVE NO PRESENT INTEREST IN BROADENING OUR OCCASIONAL USE OF THE CAPE VERDES, WE WOULD BE CONCERNED SHOULD THEY BE USED BY FORCES HOSTILE TO THE WEST. SISCO

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